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SALT LAKE CITY

SEEKS FBI, CIA FILES ON COVERT OPERATION

The American Civil Liberties Union is suing to obtain FBI and CIA files on a psychologist who said the agencies are harassing him because he refused to take part in a covert operation in Finland.

The suit asks the Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation to produce their records on Lee Lasater, who developed a stress test to determine when a person is likely to panic and become a danger to himself or others.

Officials for both agencies Tuesday declined to comment, saying they had not seen copies of the lawsuit, filed Monday in U.S. District Court.

Lasater, of Salt Lake City, was living in Helsinki in 1978 as a guest of the Finnish government, which was interested in purchasing his test. He alleges the American Embassy asked him to become involved in covert espionage by "luring a Finnish officer to our camp. I told them to stick it," he told a news conference.

Lane Bonner, supervisory special agent in the FBI's press office in Washington, said the agency had not been informed of the lawsuit. However, he said it is FBI policy not to comment on cases in litigation.

Dale Peterson, CIA chief of media relations, said the CIA adheres to the same policy.

Lasater said he has been under surveillance and harassed since refusing to cooperate in the recruiting attempt.

First the Finnish government canceled an invitation for him to visit a Finnish military base, then his wife, Sinikka, a Finnish national, got anonymous calls saying he was seeing another woman, he said.

Her immigration status was canceled, restored and canceled again, and he has had trouble obtaining visas, he said.

The FBI and CIA have refused to release their records on him, citing national security, Lasater said.